Member, we will examine the matter.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that among most of the uneconomic branch lines of the Railways the maximum losses are incurred on metre gauge railway lines and the hon. Minister has announced in the Budget (Railways) that a number of metre gauge railway lines would be converted into broad gauge lines. I feel that the metre guage lines of the North India have been taken in small numbers for conversion. The large Kosi dam area in Bihar has metre gauge lines which are uneconomic and the Railways suffer heavy losses on account of those lines. I would like to know whether Government intends to fulfil the aspirations of the people of North India, who feel that little attention has been paid to the conversion of metre lines, by converting these metre lines in to broad gauge lines expeditiously?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: Sir, the operation ratio of metre lines is 170 percent, it is true that they are uneconomic. With the new Programme of Conversing 6000 km. lines, it is believed that we will move towards more conversions in future.

[English]

SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Sir, the Railways are suffering a loss of Rs. 100 crore to Rs. 150 crore per year because of non-viable lines. I would like to know whether these heavy losses can be reduced by replacing these unviable rail routes by road transport. What is the minimum percentage of traffic required to make a line profitable?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: As has already been informed to the House, due to these uneconomic branch lines, this year we are suffering a loss of about Rs. 114 crore. So, what is required is that the State Governments should cooperate. A stage has now come when we should get rid of sentimental attachment to such uneconomic branch lines. In this connection, the State Governments should come forward. When the Railway Reforms Committee has recommended it, we made all out efforts to close certain branch lines and to supplement them with the procurement of buses. Railways are even prepared for the construction of Kachcha roads into pucca one and for this the Railways are prepared to pay on a one time basis. But so far, no State government has come forward. However, it has now been decided that the Railway Minister will personally speak to the State Chief Minister. We will try to come to a conclusion so that we can get rid of these unremunerative and uneconomic branch lines and on the contrary develop a road transport system in order to serve the people of this country.

[Translation]

University Admission for Kashmiri Migrant Students

*185. SHRI SURESHANAND SWAMI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Universities in which admission facility has been made available by the Government to Kashmiri Migrant students for higher education;

(b) the number of such students studying in these Universities,

(c) whether any University has refused admission to these students; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

1. The Central Government and the Government of Jammu & Kashmir have taken steps to provide alternative educational facilities to Kashmiri migrant students.

2. According to the information furnished by Aligarh Muslim University (AMU). Jamie Millia Islamia (JMI) and the University of Delhi, the number of Kashmiri migrant students admitted to these Universities during the past two years is as follows

		1990-91	*1991-92*
i)	A.M.U.	127	224
ii)	J.M.I.	100	105
iii)	University of Delhi	95	14

3. In addition, this Department facilitated the migration of about 700 students of Regional Engineering College (REC), Srinagar to other RECs and Engineering Colleges during 1990-91.

4. According to the information furnished by Government of Jammu and Kashmir about, 2300 migrant students from the Valley have been admitted to three Camp Colleges established in Jammu Division, and no migrant student has been denied admission in these Colleges. A number of migrant students have also been accommodated in other institutions of higher education in Jammu.

5. The University of Delhi and JMI have informed that all Kashmiri migrant students, who fulfilled the prescribed eligibility conditions, were granted admission during the past two years. In view of the large number of Migrants seeking admission to AMU in 1991-92, the University was constrained to limit admissions to the capacity available.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURESHANAND SWAMI: I would like to know the number of students who have not been able to seek admissions for some reasons. Is financial reason one of them? If so, the steps Government is contemplating to help these poor students?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, information has been given in the reply about the number of students admitted to different universities. A situation arose in the lone case of Aligarh Muslim University where six hundred students sought admission and arrangements were there for admission of four hundred students only but two hundred and fifty students could be admitted.

So far as financial aid is concerned, I think this Ministry can do nothing in this regard It comes in the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Home Affairs and they alone can decide whether financial assistance has to be given or not.

SHRI SURESHANAND SWAMI: Sir, nothing has been made clear in the reply whether admission has been given to migrant students of Kashmir t the classes in which they were studying or they have been admitted to lower classes than theirs. If they have been given admissions in one class below, what has the Government to say about the loss they will suffer?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, admission will be given according to their eligibility Every university has its own norms. In accordance with those norms admissions have been given to the students and to the classes which the universities could do.

[*English*]

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: A good number of students from other States like Kerala have been admitted in the Regional Engi-

neering College, Srinagar as per the State quota. We have been constantly requesting the Government to provide some seats in other engineering colleges, possibly in their own States. I would like to know whether this has been done or not.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: So far as the Regional Engineering College of Srinagar is concerned, as a consequence of the problem that arose in the State many students had to come out. We have opened a camp college in Jammu where almost all the students who were studying in Regional Engineering College, Srinagar, have been admitted. if there are any cases beyond that, I would like to know it from the hon. Member and we will certainly try to help them.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is in the knowledge of the hon. Minister that free education up to M.A. level and up to the University level is imparted in Jammu and Kashmir. The difficulties and problems of those people have increased who have migrated from Jammu and Kashmir. When their problems have increased, in such a situation, under special circumstances they are being given admission to various Universities of India. What difficulty does the Government have in imparting free education to those students who have migrated from there and come here?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have made a request that the Home Ministry is giving thought to this issue and only they will decide this issue

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know the number of the students who have not been able to seek admission to universities because of the lack of money and the number of such students who could not seek admission in that course and that class in which they were studying and what has the Government done to get such students admitted to that same course and that same class?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: I have given a reply about the lack of money. As far as admission in classes is concerned, admission cannot be allowed to be given against the admission rules of the University but the effort has been made that students should be shown maximum sympathy and given admission.

[*English*]

Calcutta Metro Railway

*186. DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL:
SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the basic plan of Calcutta Metro Railway project;

(b) when the project was started;

(c) the length of the line completed so far;

(d) whether the work is being executed as per schedule;

(e) if not, the reasons for delay in the timely execution of the project; and

(f) the remedial measures being taken/ proposed to be taken to ensure its speedy completion according to basic plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (f). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) Provision of 16.45 km long Metro Railway from Dum Dum Junction to Tollyganj.

(b) 1973.

(c) 9.8 km.

(d) Work is progressing as per the revised schedule which envisages